



## **Press Release**

### **The European INSPIRE Geoportal awarded to Planetek Italia**

**Bari, Italy** - Planetek Italia is starting the activities to set up the INSPIRE Geoportal, the central portal for environmental information in the European Union. The company has been awarded the tender for the "Development of the technical components of the INSPIRE Geoportal at European Level", of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) - Institute for Environment and Sustainability. This version will substitute at operational level the current prototype developed by the JRC.

The INSPIRE Geoportal will be the unique access point to global European environment geoinformation resources shared and made available by all member states within the framework of the "Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community" (INSPIRE) Directive. The main objective of this project is to provide the operational version of the INSPIRE Geoportal at European level, including integration interfaces for discovery and view services from member state portals and thus to foster the harmonization of member states' national Geoportals implementations through the adoption of open standards and open source products.

Expectations towards usability and innovation are high, as confirmed by this statement from JRC: "In the context of the development of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE), the JRC, as the technical coordinator, developed the prototype of the INSPIRE Geoportal. Based on the experience gained in the development and operation of this prototype, the JRC issued a call for tender for the development of the operational version of this Geoportal at Union level. Compliance to JRC's and wider European Commission's detailed functional and non-functional requirements formed the basis for this call for tender. Taking due consideration of the critical nature of the Geoportal as the European entry point to access the European Union geospatial resources, the JRC expects the successful proposal to be transformed in an innovative, reliable and performing INSPIRE Geoportal that will be a central element in fulfilling the goals of the infrastructure."

The proposal of Planetek Italia, prime contractor of the temporary consortium with the German company lat/lon ([www.lat-lon.de](http://www.lat-lon.de)), has been awarded amongst 17 proposals from biggest European GeoSpatial operators.

The technical proposal is entirely based on Open Source technologies and OGC standards, which Planetek Italia and lat/lon already adopt and even implement.

The complexity of the issue and the presence of highest qualified competitors makes the C.E.O. of Planetek Italia, Giovanni Sylos Labini, declare: "I'm very satisfied for this success. To be awarded is a reward for the large investments we made in innovation and research and for the transparent and cooperative approach with our clients to build the right expertise to compete in the international market."

The project will be realized in 18 months utilising the Design Thinking paradigm, the working philosophy adopted by Planetek Italia for its activities.

"Being selected for realizing the INSPIRE Geoportal is a great honor", adds Jens Fitzke, director of lat/lon and Project Steering Committee member of the deegree project. "This project offers an outstanding opportunity to benefit from our long-term commitment to geospatial IT standards and the Open Source project deegree."

About INSPIRE:  
<http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/>

#### **About Planetek Italia**

Planetek Italia S.r.l. is a leading multidisciplinary Geographical Information Services and Earth Observation company focused on exploiting the value of geodata through viable, desirable and feasible solutions for storage, processing and delivery.



Planetek italia is an Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Associate Member and is involved with the INSPIRE initiative as a Spatial Data Interest Community (SDIC), founder of the Italian INSPIRE Forum, founder member of AIPAS, Italian Small and Medium Aerospace Enterprises Association

For further information about Planetek and its products and services please contact [sales@planetek.it](mailto:sales@planetek.it) or phone +39 080 9644200. <http://www.planetek.it>

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**About JRC**

The Joint Research Centre is the scientific and technical arm of the European Commission. It is providing the scientific advice and technical know-how to support a wide range of EU policies. Its status as a Commission service, which guarantees independence from private or national interests, is crucial for pursuing its mission. In 2002 Commissioners Wallström, Solbes and Busquin agreed a Memorandum of understanding (MOU) on cooperation between DG Environment, Eurostat and JRC for the first steps in the development of the INSPIRE initiative. The JRC acts as the overall technical co-ordinator of INSPIRE. The JRC ensures the viability of the technical infrastructure for INSPIRE and guarantees the liaison with the European and international research community. JRC also initiates and monitors the work with international standardisation bodies for the purposes of INSPIRE.

**About lat / lon**

lat/lon is a Germany-based consulting and software engineering company focused on Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), geospatial IT standards and Open Source software. lat/lon is a Principal Member of the Open Geospatial Consortium and the main developer of the deegree project (<http://deegree.org/>), the most substantial implementation of OGC and ISO standards in the field of Open Source software. It builds the foundation for numerous productive components of spatial data infrastructures - in Germany, Europe and all over the world.

